

Inventory of U.S. Marine Managed Areas



General Marine Managed Areas (MMA) Inventory Information

Purpose: A collaborative effort to gather comprehensive information on place-based marine resource management under federal, state, territorial, or tribal jurisdiction in U.S. coastal, marine, and Great Lakes waters.

Definitions: The term ‘marine managed area’ (MMA) refers to a broad set of areas established for some conservation purpose in the marine environment and is more inclusive than ‘marine protected area’ (MPA). The final definitions of MMA criteria can be found at www.mpa.gov or in the *Federal Register* (70 FR 351221).

Data Collection and Availability

- Each site’s data was collected by the managing federal or state agency, an MPA Center/Coastal States Organization hired-intern, and/or by NOAA, and reviewed by federal agencies, states and territories prior to posting.
- The MMA Inventory data is publicly available on www.mpa.gov

Benefits and Uses of the Inventory

- The Inventory is a useful tool for managers, scientists, and the public to make informed decisions about the conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lake resources. For example, it will be used to help state and federal MPA managers develop a suite of information, tools, and methods for regional MPA planning and adaptive management.
- The Inventory is a major step towards developing a national system of MPAs as called for in *Presidential Executive Order* 13158 on Marine Protected Areas.
- There are many benefits to states and territories through the gathering of comparable data associated with state MMAs and those of other states and federal agencies regionally. For example, states and territories with coral reef management plans will use the Inventory to fill in gaps in data to better protect coral reefs.

Features of the Marine Managed Areas Inventory

Inventory Atlas: An online GIS mapping tool (ArcIMS Map Service Tool) that allows the user to:

- Identify and map the location of MMA boundaries through a GIS
- Create custom maps
- Download the GIS boundary data for analysis

Database Query Function: A search function to call up MMAs and data on site attributes. Allows the user to:

- Search the collected data using custom queries
- Find answers to commonly asked questions that can also be found in the “Key Questions” section on www.MPA.gov
- Use the database to research MMAs for analysis

Site Profiles: Displays a unique page of information for each site, including:

- Location, purpose, natural resources, legal authorities, and relevant site management and zone information

- Link (where available) to official websites of the managing agencies and full regulation text
- Locator map and pictures of the site (as available)

Data Download: Allows the user to download the following data for their use:

- MMA site data: download a spreadsheet containing all the information for each site
- GIS boundary data: download shapefiles and metadata of site(s) boundaries (as available)

Status of Marine Managed Areas Inventory

(please see www.MPA.gov for more up-to-date information)

Federal Sites:

NOAA

National Marine Fisheries Service - Data completed

National Marine Sanctuary Program - Data completed

NOAA-State Partnership

National Estuarine Research Reserves - Data completed

Department of the Interior

National Park Service - Data completed

Fish and Wildlife Service - Partial data set; regional offices will enter data March-April 2006

Minerals Management Service - Partial data set; data to be complete in spring 2006

State Sites:

Number of states/territories with posted data: 22

Number of states/territories actively working on data: 5

Number of states/territories with no data submitted/not participating: 8

Questions about the Marine Managed Areas Inventory

When will the Inventory be complete?

The MMA Inventory is an ongoing database that will be maintained on a regular basis. Several states and federal MMA programs have either chosen not to have their data posted or are in the process of collecting and/or verifying their information. The MPA Center will continue to work with state, territory, and federal representatives to fill remaining data gaps, correct inaccuracies, and provide opportunities for updates and improvements of the data.

Why do certain states or federal programs have more data than others?

The amount of data collected on specific federal, state, and territorial MMA sites varies due to several reasons, such as a lack of publicly available information for certain data; a shortage of resources to allow for more robust data collection; and remaining questions related to the accuracy of initial data collection. Over the long term, the MPA Center will work with its partners to post as much of the available information as possible for each MMA in the inventory.

Will sites from the MMA Inventory be included in the national system of MPAs?

The information on federal, state, and territorial MMA sites will be used as baseline data for developing the national system of MPAs as required by Executive Order 13158. First, the data has helped to identify a common set of site characteristics across a subgroup of MMA sites that will help to define the term 'marine protected area' for the purposes of the national system. In addition, the Inventory provides site information that will serve as a significant basis for identifying eligible sites for inclusion in the national system. Once identified as eligible, the MPA Center will work with the managing agency or agencies to determine if they should be included. Finally, the data, along with information on natural and cultural resources and human uses, will help agencies to identify conservation gaps and future priorities.

For Additional Information

National Marine Protected Areas Center:

General Issues

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